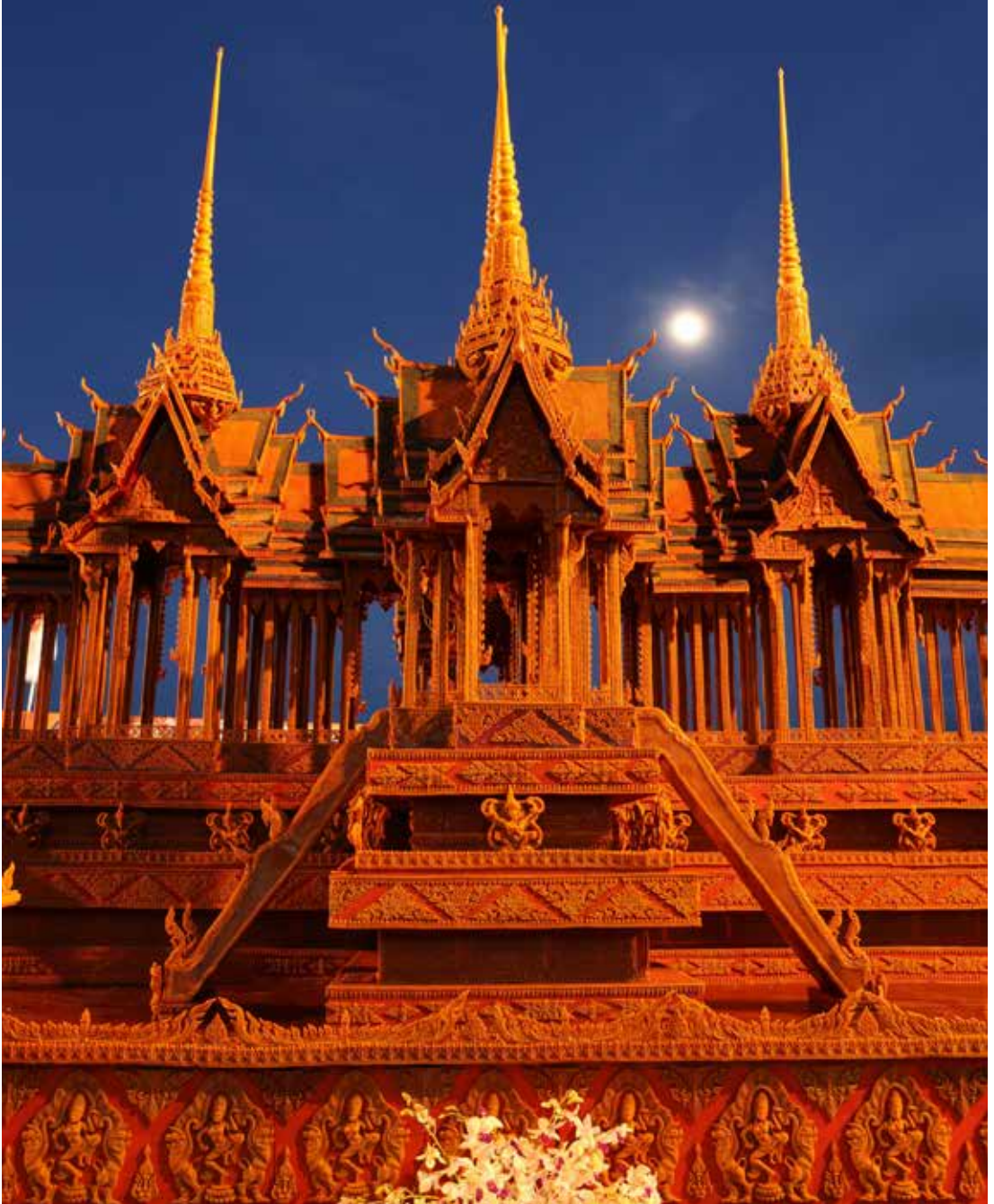




Sakon Nakhon

amazing
THAILAND





Sakon Nakhon

Sakon Nakhon





ท่องเที่ยววิถีไทย

เก้ไก้
สไตล
ลิกซิ่ง





Nong Han





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Phra Chedi Si Maha Pho

Sakon Nakhon





Thai Term Glossary

Amphoe	: District
Ban	: Village
Khuean	: Dam
Maenam	: River
Mueang	: Town or City
Prang	: Corn-shaped tower or sanctuary
SAO	: Subdistrict Administrative Organization
Soi	: Alley
Song Thaeo	: Pick-up trucks but with a roof over the back
Talat	: Market
Tambon	: Subdistrict
Tham	: Cave
Tuk-Tuks	: Three-wheeled motorized taxis
Ubosot or Bot	: Ordination hall in a temple
Wihan	: Image hall in a temple
Wat	: Temple

Note: English spelling here given tries to approximate Thai Pronunciation. Posted signs may be spelled differently. When seeking help for direction, point to the Thai spelling given after each place name.

Sakon Nakhon is a Buddhist town with five Buddhist stupas. Its history can be dated back for three thousand years. Legend says that Nong Han town, or presently Sakon Nakhon, was built in 11th century when Khmer ruled this region. When the Khmer lost its power, the town was under the rules of Lanxang or Laotian Kingdom. It was renamed into "Mueang Chiang Mai Nongharn". When the town was under Siamese Kingdom, it was renamed again into "Sakon Thawapi". In 1830, during the reign of King Rama III, it was named "Sakon Nakhon".

Sakon Nakhon Province is 647 kilometres from Bangkok. It acquires total area of 9,605 sq. kilometres. and has 18 Amphoes including Amphoe Mueang Sakon Nakhon, Amphoe Phanna Nikhom, Amphoe Phang Khon, Amphoe Sawang Daen Din, Amphoe Charoen Sin, Amphoe Ban Muang, Amphoe Kham Ta Kla, Amphoe Wanon Niwat, Amphoe Akat Amnuai, Amphoe Kusuman, Amphoe Phon Na Kaeo, Amphoe Khok Si Suphan, Amphoe Tao Ngoi, Amphoe Phu Phan, Amphoe Kut Bak, Amphoe Nikhom Nam Un, Amphoe Waritchaphum and Amphoe Song Dao.

Distances from Sakon Nakhon to nearby provinces

Nakhon Phanom	93 kilometres
Mukdahan	119 kilometres
Kalasin	128 kilometres
Udon Thani	159 kilometres

Distances from Amphoe Mueang Sakon Nakhon to other districts

Amphoe Phanna Nikhom	39 kilometres
Amphoe Phang Khon	54 kilometres
Amphoe Sawang Daen Din	84 kilometres
Amphoe Charoen Sin	90 kilometres
Amphoe Ban Muang	120 kilometres
Amphoe Kham Ta Kla	109 kilometres
Amphoe Wanon Niwat	85 kilometres
Amphoe Akat Amnuai	57 kilometres
Amphoe Kusuman	40 kilometres
Amphoe Phon Na Kaeo	35 kilometres
Amphoe Khok Si Suphan	22 kilometres
Amphoe Tao Ngoi	28 kilometres
Amphoe Phu Phan	33 kilometres
Amphoe Kut Bak	56 kilometres
Amphoe Nikhom Nam Un	99 kilometres
Amphoe Waritchaphum	69 kilometres
Amphoe Song Dao	109 kilometres





HOW TO GET THERE

By Car: From Bangkok, takes Highway No.1 (Pahonyothin Road) to Saraburi and turn right into Highway No.2 (Mittraphap Road) at Saraburi, drive through Nakhon Ratchasima, Amphoe Ban Phai of Khon Kaen. Then turn right to Highway No.23 via Maha Sarakham and Kalasin, then use Highway No.213 to Sakon Nakhon. The total distance is around 647 kilometres.

By Bus: From the Northern Bus Terminal Chatuchak (Kamphaeng Phet II Road) in Bangkok. There are many bus to Sakon Nakhon everyday. For more information contact:

- *The Transport Co., Ltd.* Tel. 1490, 0 2936 2852-66, Sakon Nakhon Branch Tel. 0 4271 2860, 09 3315 4483 website : www.transport.co.th

- *Nakhon Chai Air Co., Ltd.* Tel. 1624, website : www.nca.co.th

For more information contact Sakon Nakhon Bus Station Tel. 0 4271 4945

By Train: State Railway of Thailand operates daily train service from Bangkok to Udon Thani, where tourist can catch routine bus to Sakon Nakhon, 159 kilometres away. For more information, Tel. 1690, 0 2220 4334, 0 2220 4261. Udon Thani Station Tel. 0 4222 2061, website : www.railway.co.th

By Air: There are two airlines operating flights from Donmueang International Airport in Bangkok to Sakon Nakhon Airport, as follows:

- *Nok Air* Tel. 1318, 0 2900 9955, website : www.nokair.com
- *Thai Air Asia* Tel. 0 2515 9999, website : www.airasia.com



Sakon Nakhon Bus Terminal 2





Phra That Choeng Chum

Transportation in Sakon Nakhon

There are Song Thaeos, motor tricycle, and pedal tricycle plying the provincial town of Sakon Nakhon. They are available at many places; such as, the Sakon Nakhon Municipal Market, Sakon Nakhon Hospital, and the Sakon Nakhon Bus Terminal 2.

To travel from Amphoe Mueang Sakon Nakhon to other districts, there are Song Thaeos, 6-wheelers, and buses available from the Sakon Nakhon Municipal Market and Sakon Nakhon Bus Terminal 2.

Transportation from Sakon Nakhon to nearby provinces

From the Sakon Nakhon Bus Terminal 2, there are air-conditioned and non-air-conditioned

bus services to nearby provinces including Udon Thani, Nakhon Phanom, Khon Kaen, Kalasin, Bueng Kan, etc. For more information, Tel. 0 4271 4945.

ATTRACTIONS

Amphoe Mueang Sakon Nakhon Phra That Choeng Chum (พระธาตุเชิงชุม)

Situated in Wat Phra That Choeng Chum Worawihan, rectangular stupa is 24 metres high and decorated with 3.75 kilograms golden umbrella. The stupa, or Phra That, has four doors put inside is fill with stone. It is built to cover footprints of four Buddhas namely Phra Kakusantha, Phra Konakhom, Phra Katsapa, and Phra Khodom or Phra Si Ariyametrai (The present Lord Buddha) Its





Nong Han



Somdet Chaofa Galyani Vadhana Park

history is unclear, however, Phra That is considered sacred icon for Sakon Nakhon. Next to the Phra That is the chapel that houses Luang Po Ong Saen, a sacred Buddha statue of the province. On Wan Phra or Buddhist Day, lots of Buddhist

always pay homage to the Buddha image at night. The temple holds annual celebration between the 9th and 15th date of waxing moon of January.

Nong Han (หนองหาร)

The huge and famous lake of Thailand acquires total area of 123 sq. kilometres. It is fed by many streams before supplying to Kam Stream, tributary of Mekong that runs into the big river at Amphoe That Phanom, Nakhon Phanom Province. At the depth between 3-8 metres, the lake facilitates agriculture, livestock farming and fishery of the people around it. There are more than 20 islets in the lake such as Ko Don Sawan, the biggest islet where deserted temple and ancient Buddha images are located. Lush forest on the islet makes it habitat for many birds. There are pavilions of Ko Kaeo and Ko Don





Sakhm where tourist can take a break. Ko Don Sathung is surrounded with golden freshwater weed which glows under sunshine.

Somdet Phra Srinagarindra Park (สวนสมเด็จพระศรีนครินทร์)

Located next to Nong Han, in Tambon That Choeng Chum. Mother Princess, Phra Srinagarindra, has presided over the opening ceremony on November 9, 1987. The park's compound include an ancient pond, called Sa Phang Thong, which was built in the same period as Phra That Choeng Chum. The park comprises beautiful flower and tree, jungle area, water park, rock garden, exercising area and 69 metres high fountain. The park is open for public use in botanical study. It is open between 04.00 a.m. – 09.00 p.m.

Later, the Park was expanded to cover more area of approximately 20 rai, which was also turned into a public park to serve the same purpose as the main Park and sponsored by the people of Sakon Nakhon. The extended park was named *Somdet Chaofa Galyani Vadhana Park* (known in common as Suan Mae–Suan Luk) to celebrate the occasion of the 84th birthday anniversary of the Princess of Naradhiwas on 6 May, 2007. The Park is open daily from 04.00 a.m. – 09.00 p.m.

Phu Phan Museum (พิพิธภัณฑสถาน)

Located behind the Sakon Nakhon Kindergarten, on Udon Thani - Sakon Nakhon Road, Tambon That Choeng Chum, displays the historical background, way of life, and local culture of Sakon Nakhon. Inside the building are divided into different rooms, which are the overture



Phu Phan Museum





room, the exhibition of “Amazing Phu Phan”, Isan seasonal flooded forest and swamp forest, Nong Han and the settlement of Sakon Nakhon town, room of Sakon Nakhon people, praising the King and the Queen room, exhibition room honouring Their Majesties the King and Queen, Land of Dhamma room, and outdoor sculpture. The Museum opens from Tuesday - Sunday between 09.00 a.m. – 05.00 p.m. For more information, please call Tel. 0 4271 4853.

Freshwater Aquarium (สถานแสดงพันธุ์ปลาน้ำจืด)

Located on Sai Sawang Road, Tambon That Choeng Chum inside the Inland Fisheries Research and Development Centre, established with the purposes of the fish breeds production and conservation in the Nong Han area, and

promotion of aquatic animals breeding in the provinces of the Northeast region. The Aquarium displays and gives knowledge about various breeds of fish that were discovered; such as, Albino, Mekong giant catfish, tilapia, Siamese tiger fish, Clown knife fish, Great snakehead, and Mrigal, etc. Interested persons can visit from Monday - Friday between 08.30 a.m. - 04.30 p.m. For more information, please call Tel. 0 4271 1447.

Sakon Nakhon Museum (พิพิธภัณฑสถานเมืองสกลนคร)

Situated at Building 1 in the Sakon Nakhon Rajabhat University, Nittayo Road, Tambon That Choeng Chum, features belongings, and utensils of several ethnic groups including historical photographs, and art and cultural



Wat Pa Suthawat





Inside of The museum of Achan Man Purithattha Thera

background documents. Open between 08.30 a.m. - 04.30 p.m. For a group visit, please write in advance to the Director of the Arts, Culture and Languages Centre, Sakon Nakhon Rajabhat University. For more information, please call Tel. 0 4274 4009.

The museum of Achan Man Purithattha Thera (พิพิธภัณฑ์บริหารอาจารย์มั่น ภูริทัตตเถระ)

Located in Wat Pa Suthawat, opposite to City Hall. The museum house bronze statue of Achan Man Purithatto in meditation posture and the glass box that houses his ash that turns into crystal. The display, including his tools, is placed in marble altar and his history is shown nearby.

Achan Man Purithatto is a famous Buddhist monk. Born in Kaenkaeo family, in Amphoe Khong Chiam, Ubon Ratchathani, he was



The museum of Achan Man Purithattha Thera at Wat Pa Suthawat

a novice when he was 15 and entered monkhood at 22 at Wat Leap, Ubon Ratchathani. Achan Man always practice meditation on the trip to remote area and he had many followers such as Luang Pu Fan Acharo, Luang Pu Khao Alanayo, Luang Pu Waen Suchino. Achan Man moved to





Lotus Memorial Park

stay at Wat Pa Suthawat and passed away on November 11, 1949.

Furthermore, the Museum of Luang Pu Lui is located also in the temple's compound. The museum is built to house ashes of Luang Pu Lui (1901-1989). This famous monk in Wipatsana is follower of Achan Man. He loved to travel around until his last day in his life. His Majesty the King Bhumibol Adulyadej (Rama IX) presided over his funeral and mentioned *"a pagoda to house his ashes should be built in Wat Pa Suthawat, where the pagoda housing ashes of Achan Man is located. For they can stay*



Nong Han Viewpoint

close together." His Majesty the King Bhumibol Adulyadej (Rama IX) has designed the pagoda.

Lotus Memorial Park (อุทยานบัวเฉลิมพระเกียรติ)

Located inside Kasetsart University, Chalermphrakiat Sakon Nakhon Province Campus. In addition to serving as a source of knowledge and recreational place for university students and the general public, the Lotus Memorial Park features a large lotus swamp located right at the entrance with a network of red wooden boardwalks to allow visitors to walk around the swamp and has a pavilion in the middle for relaxation.

There are 3 zones inside the Park; namely,

1. *Collection Zone* featuring a collection of lotus varieties in the form of a 10-rai lotus pond with 34 native as well as foreign varieties of water lilies; such as, the Royal water lily or Bua Kradong, Bua Sai, Bua Phan-Bua Phuean, and Bua Farang, with connected boardwalks for visitors to closely admire their flowers.





2. *Specimen Zone* displaying 74 varieties of water lilies in pots for a closer study.

3. *Exhibition Zone* at the ground floor of the Research and Development Building exhibiting the knowledge and background of water lilies including the classification of water lily varieties, water lilies in Thailand, how to grow and take care of water lilies, diseases and pests, breeding, farming, and uses.

The Lotus Memorial Park is open during 08.30 a.m.-04.30 p.m. on weekdays and 08.30 a.m.-06.00 p.m. on weekends. Admission is free. For further information, Tel. 0 4272 5000.

To get there: *By car:* From Amphoe Mueang Sakon Nakhon, follow Highway No. 22 bound for Nakhon Phanom for approximately 19

kilometres. The entrance to the Park will be on the left, some 2 kilometres beyond the entrance to Kasetsart University. *By bus:* Take the Song Thaeo routing Sakon Nakhon-Tha Rae and get off at the Park's entrance.

Nong Han Viewpoint (จุดชมวิวนองหาร)

Located at Km. 168 on Highway No. 22, the Nakhon Phanom-Sakon Nakhon route, the Viewpoint is approximately 2 kilometres from the Lotus Memorial Park, Tambon Tha Rae. There are a number of pavilions for relaxation by the lake. Another 1 kilometre further along the road is a concrete bridge spanning from the shore to an island in the middle of the lake, which is ideal for strolling and taking photos, especially in the morning and at twilight. It is open daily during 06.00 a.m.-07.00 p.m., free of charge.



Nong Han Viewpoint





There are also many other viewpoints of Nong Han Lake that are frequented by visitors and photographers; such as, the Tawan Ron Thi Nong Han Viewpoint at Ban Tha Rae and Ban Tha Wat Viewpoint in Tambon Lao Po Daeng.

Ban Tha Rae Community (ชุมชนบ้านท่าแร่)

Established in 1884 and located in Tambon Tha Rae, this is an old community with the largest number of Roman Catholic Christians in Thailand. Formerly, the Christians of Tha Rae immigrated from Sakon Nakhon on the other side of Nong Han Lake, which included both the Vietnamese and Thai Yo (native people who were immigrants from Hongsa District in Sainyabuli, Lao P.D.R.) due to their being deprived of believing in Christianity by the rulers of Sakon Nakhon in the reign of King Rama V the Great. So, they built a large bamboo raft with blankets as the sails that could carry all the people and necessary items, and prayed to Saint Michael to



French style architecture in Ban Tha Rae

lead them to a land where they could spread out Christianity. The wind took them across to the other side of the Nong Han Lake where the ground was covered with laterite called "Hin Hae". They settled there and called their community "Tha Hae", which later became "Tha Rae" until now.



Christmas Star Parade Celebration





Catholic Church at Ban Tha Rae

The plan of the Ban Tha Rae community is like a checkerboard, similar to that in Western countries, with beautiful buildings in the French-style architecture along both sides of its main road. The community is also the location of the St. Michael's Cathedral, which features a large boat-shaped church built in memory to how the villagers emigrated from Sakon Nakhon provincial town to settle at Ban Tha Rae. During 23-25 December of every year, the Christian community of Ban Tha Rae will hold the Christmas Star Parade based on a belief that the star symbolises the birth of Jesus on Earth. There are a lot of activities to enjoy throughout the event. For enquiries, please contact the Archdiocese of Tharae-Nongsaeng, Tel. 0 4271 1272.



Phra That Narai Cheng Weng Stupa

To get there: From Amphoe Mueang Sakon Nakhon, take Highway NO. 22 (Sakon Nakhon-Nakhon Phanom) for approximately 21 kilometres to Ban Tha Rae Community.

Phra That Narai Cheng Weng Stupa

(ปราสาทพระธาตุนารายณ์เจงเวง)

Located in Wat Phra That Narai Cheng Weng, Ban That, the lone stupa is built from sandstone on laterite base and carved beautifully. Its lintel feature Lord Krishna killing Lion in Bapuan Khmer art. The Art appears on this stupa is quite similar to many Khmer ruins found in Isan. Stone





Phrathat Dum



A lintel of Phrathat Dum

Carving on door arch and window remain very clear. Legend says this stupa was built by women, who competed with the men group that built Phra That Phu Phek. According to its design and art, it is assumed to be from 11-12th century. Annual celebration of Phra That Narai

Cheng Weng is held from 11th-15th date of waxing moon in March.

To get there: From Amphoe Mueang Sakon Nakhon, take Highway NO. 22 (Sakon Nakhon-Udon Thani). Turn left at the intersection and take Highway NO. 241 towards Kalasin province for approximately 500 metres. Turn left to a local road and continue on to reach Wat Phra That Narai Cheng Weng. A total distance of 6 kilometres from downtown Sakon Nakhon.

Phrathat Dum (พระธาตุตุม)

Located at Wat Phrathat Dum, Ban That Dum, Tambon Ngio Don. There were originally three brick-built prang towers standing on the same laterite base facing to the East. There is a trace of an encircling moat in the North and the South. Nowadays, only one stand-alone prang has remained. Presumably, it was built in the





same period as Phrathat Narai Cheng Weng, but smaller. There are lintels found on the four directions of the sanctuary. The one in the north is the only lintel left at the sanctuary and features a deity riding his mount above the Kala (a monster head) decorated with other animals like elephant, lion, and a scrolling foliage design. It is the Khmer art in a Baphuon style dating back to the 11-12th century.

To get there: From Amphoe Mueang Sakon Nakhon, take Sukkasem Road and Ku Mueang Road until reaching the Government Housing Bank intersection. Turn right and continue on to another intersection. Turn left go to Ban Dum and go straight on to the end of the road to Wat Phrathat Dum. A total distance of 5 kilometres from downtown Sakon Nakhon.

Phu Phan Royal Development Study Centre (ศูนย์ศึกษาการพัฒนาภูพาน อันเนื่องมาจากพระราชดำริ)

Located at Ban Na Nok Khao, Tambon Huai Yang, was established to be the northeastern centre for study, research, and development on every aspect of agriculture. The Centre is like a live natural museum where people can come to study and take knowledge to apply for their occupations. It features an exhibition of the royally-initiated projects, and a livestock farm of the “Three Black Wonders of Phu Phan”: Tajima cattle, Phu Phan pig, and Phu Phan black chicken. In addition, there is a mushroom farm, sericulture farm, turkey farm, dairy cattle, Javan Rusa, fish farm in floating baskets, a demonstrative rice plantation, mini zoo for children, and decorative flower garden. Herbal products and agricultural processed products are available for sale.



Phu Phan Royal Development Study Centre





Phu Phan Ratchaniwet Palace

The Centre is open daily during 08.30 a.m.-04.30 p.m. Admission is free. For a group visit with a guide, a letter must be sent in advance. There is a tram service to tour around the Centre available

at 300 Baht for a 15-20 seater tram. For more information, Tel. 0 4274 7458-9 or visit www.royal.rid.go.th/phuphan.

To get there: From Amphoe Mueang Sakon Nakhon, take Highway No. 213 (Sakon Nakhon - Kalasin). Turn left to Rural Highway NO. 3035 and go straight ahead for 2 kilometres to Phu Phan Royal Development Study Centre. A total distance of 16 kilometres from downtown Sakon Nakhon.

Phu Phan Ratchaniwet Palace (พระตำหนัก
ภูพานราชนิเวศน์)

Located on the mid of Phu Phan Mountain Range, the palace is the royal residence of His Majesty the King Bhumibol Adulyadej (Rama IX), Her Majesty the Queen and royal family



Phu Phan Ratchaniwet Palace





Pha Nang Moen (Phu Phan National Park)

during the mission in Northeast Thailand. The mansion is located amidst shady forest and beautiful garden.

The Palace is open to the general public (well dressed and composed) daily during 08.00 a.m.-04.00 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, Tel. 0 4271 1550.

To get there: From Amphoe Mueang Sakon Nakhon, take Highway No. 213 towards Kalasin province for approximately 13 kilometres. The entrance of Phu Phan Ratchaniwet Palace will be on the right.

Phu Phan National Park (อุทยานแห่งชาติภูพาน)

The park acquires total area of 664.70 square kilometres. in Amphoe Mueang, Phanna Nikhom, Kut Bak and Phu Phan of Sakon

Nakhon as well as Amphoe Somdet and Huai Phueng of Kalasin. The park's official is located on Phu Phan Range. Established on October 29, 1982, the park features limestone mountain and different forest such as deciduous dipterocarp forest, jungle rain forest, or mixed deciduous forest. Wildlife found in the park include langur, civet, and slow loris. Its attractions in the park include.

Pha Nang Moen and Lan Sao Ae (ผานางเมิน และ ลานสาวเอ้) The cliff and plain is 700 metres and 2 kilometres, via Eng forest, from the park's head quarter respectively. Pha Nang Moen is a cliff top terrace that allows visitor to enjoy the view at the western side. It is quite a nice place for camping and watch sunset view. Below the cliff, there is a track leading to Lan Sao Ae, literary means the place for the lady to show beautiful attire. The rock plain is situated amidst





Namtok Kham Hom (Phu Phan National Park)

wilderness and towering cliff. During August to October, wild flower will blossom and allow visitor to enjoy the colourful scenery.

Tham Seri Thai ถ้ำเสรีไทย The cave is some 4.5 kilometres from the park's headquarter. During WWII, Seri Thai has used this cave for arm and food storage as it is well camouflaged by lush vegetable. A secret airfield is found nearby.

Stone Arch (Thang Phi Phan) สะพานหินธรรมชาติ (ทางผีผ่าน) The stone arch, 1.5 metres wide and 8 metres long, bridges two groups of rock together. So, its beneath becomes a wonderful shelter.

Namtok Kham Hom and Kong Ping Ngu (น้ำตกคำหอม และ โค้งปั้งงู) The waterfall is located approximately 9 kilometres from the Park's Headquarters, with an area attached to the royal court of the Phu Phan Ratchaniwet Palace. The entrance is near the winding **Khong Ping Ngu** snake curve of Highway No. 213. The waterfall can be accessed safely, however, it is good to visit during rainy season only.

Namtok Pricha Suksan (น้ำตกปรีชาสุสานต์) Located in the Phu Phan Mountain Range and features a stream that flows in tiers down the slopes of the mountain; some pools look like a slider. The 12 metres long swimmable waterfall is amidst an intact forest and will be full of water in the rainy season. To get there: From the Park's Headquarters, follow Highway No. 213 bound for Amphoe Mueang Sakon Nakhon until reaching a junction. Turn left onto Rural Highway No. So No 2053, continue on and turn left onto Highway No. 22 until reaching Ban Phan, turn left again onto Rural Highway No. So No 3221 via the Ban Prachasukhan School to the end of the road. Turn left at the T-junction and go straight for 3.5 kilometres further to reach the waterfall. It is a total distance of 38 kilometres from the Park's Headquarters and approximately 26 kilometres from Amphoe Mueang Sakon Nakhon.

There is nature trail from Pha Nang Moen, Lan Sao Ae, Kaeng Khi Ling, via mixed deciduous forest and tropical evergreen forest. Tourist can learn about forest in the park, fern, sandstone, moss and lichen, Lan Sao Ae and friendly trees. It take a hour to get through such 1 kilometre trail.

Admission is 200 Baht for adults and 100 Baht for children. Accommodation, camping ground,





Khong Ping Ngu (Shake curve of Highway No.213)



Camping ground of Phu Phan National Park

and welfare shops are also provided. For more information, contact Phu Phan National Park, Tambon Huai Yang, Amphoe Mueang, Sakon Nakhon 47000, Tel. 08 1263 5029, or the National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department,

Bang Khen, Bangkok, Tel: 0 2562 0760-2, or visit www.dnp.go.th.

To get there: From Amphoe Mueang Sakon Nakhon, follow Highway No. 213 bound for Kalasin via the Phu Phan Ratchaniwet Palace and Khong Ping Ngu. The entrance to the Park will be on the right, a total distance of 25 kilometres from downtown Sakon Nakhon.

Wat Tham Pha Daen (วัดถ้ำผาแด่น)

Situated on the Phu Phan Range, Ban Dong Noi, Tambon Dong Mafai, this century-old temple is shady amidst verdant surroundings with large boulders ideal for Dhamma practice and meditation. A number of insight development monk masters, including Phra Achan Man Phurithatta Thera, used to stay here for Dhamma





Wat Tham Pha Daen

practice in the past. Later in 2007, Phra Achan Pakon Kantawiro, the Abbot, developed the temple to be a meditation centre plus religious tourist attraction to encourage more visits by the public and teenagers.

Within the temple's area, there are many massive reliefs sculpted on sandstone, mostly depicting scenes from various stories; such as, a reclining



An immense sculpture of Luangpu Thuat

Buddha, life story of the Lord Buddha including his birth, enlightenment, and entering Nibbana, replica of the past Four Buddhas' footprints, an immense sculpture of Luangpu Thuat carved out of a whole lump of boulder with an elephant and a snake in a protective manner on his side, images of several other noble monks of Thailand, Wetsuwan Garuda, and a golden stupa on top of a large sandstone boulder to symbolise Mount Sumeru – the centre of the Earth or the universe according to Hindu as well as Buddhist beliefs. There is also Sala Yachai Khon Bun housing reliefs of Buddha images designated to each of the 7 days of the week on which a person was born, and Sala Ruam Bun where large centuries-old rare trees are used as pillars to be studied by later generations. A vast terrace is provided for visitors to admire the 180-degree scenery of downtown Sakon Nakhon and Nong Han Lake.

To get there: From downtown Sakon Nakhon, follow Highway No. 213 towards Kalasin province via the by-pass intersection until reaching the Ban Si Wicha T-junction. Turn right





A massive reliefs of reclining Buddha

onto Rural Highway No. 2339 and continue on to reach the Ban Na Kapkae School. Turn right at the intersection and go straight on to the end of the road to Wat Tham Pha Daen's parking space where visitors will have to connect to a Song Thaeo for another 4 kilometres further to go uphill to the temple, which is approximately 21 kilometres from downtown Sakon Nakhon. The Song Thaeo's fare is 20 Baht each.

Amphoe Phanna Nikhom
Achan Fan Acharo Museum (พิพิธภัณฑ์
อาจารย์ฝั้น อาจาโร)

Located in Wat Pa Udom Somphon, Tambon

Phanna Nikhon. The famous Buddhist monk, Achan Fan Acharo was born on August 20, 1899, in Suwannarong Family, at Tambon Ban Muang Khai, Amphoe Phanna Nikhom. At the age of 19, he ordained as novice at Wat Phon Thong. A year later, he entered monkhood and follow Achan Man Phurithatto.

The museum, in the shape of pagoda and three folds of lotus, houses life-size of Achan Fan is sitting posture with stick in his hand. The other exhibits include ashes in glass box and tools, as well as his history.





Achan Fan Acharo Sculpture

To get there: From Phanna Nikhom District Office, turn right and go straight ahead until reaching intersection. Turn left and via Phra Achan Fan Acharo Hospital and continue on to reach Wat Pa Udom Somphon, a total distance of 2 kilometres from Phanna Nikhom District Office.

Phra That Phu Phek (พระธาตุภูเพ็ก)

Located in Tambon Na Hua Bo. Pilgrim needs to climb 491 steps to reach the stupa that is located on the peak of Phu Phan Range. The sandstone stupa was built on rectangular laterite base. The front of the stupa connects to a pavilion whose first floor is 1.58 metres high and second floor is another 0.70 metre high. The stupa is 7.67 metres high. But this stupa was not completed and it has not any roof and crown. Phra That Phu Phek is believed to be built in the 11th century to serve as Hindu temple. It was adapted to serve Buddhism later.



Achan Fan Acharo Museum





According to Urangkhatat Legends, or legend of Phra That Phanom, Phra That Phu Phek was built by a male group that compete with the female group who built Phra That Narai Cheng Weng. The stupa was built to house Lord Buddha's relic. The male team stopped the construction when they were fooled by the woman team that set "Phek Star". So, this stupa was named Phra That Phu Phek.

To get there: From Amphoe Phanna Nikhom, take Highway NO. 22 towards Amphoe Mueang Sakon Nakhon until reaching Ban Na Hua Bo. U-turn and turn left to Rural Highway NO. 2016. And go straight ahead for 12 kilometres until reaching Ban Phu Phek.

Wat Tham Kham or Phu Kham (วัดถ้ำขาม หรือ ภูขาม)

Located on a mountain called Phu Kham, or Phu Kham Kham, part of Phu Phan Range, the



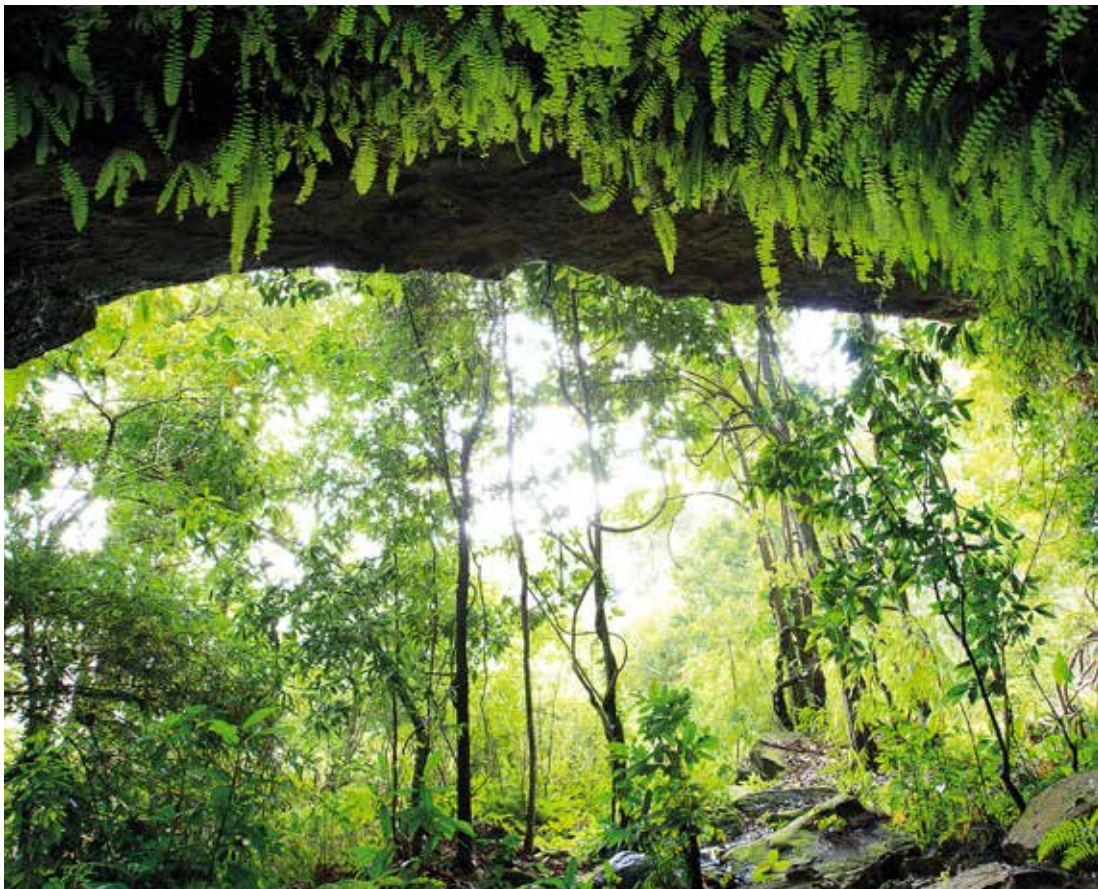
Phra That Phu Phek

temple once was meditation place of Achan Fan Acharo who stayed here until 1964. He moved to stay at Wat Pa Udom Somphon when he got sick. The temple also houses ashes of Phra Achan Thet Thetrangsi which pilgrims always come to pay homage to.



Wat Tham Kham





Phu Pha Yon National Park

To get there: From Amphoe Phanna Nikhom, take Highway NO. 22 towards Amphoe Mueang Sakon Nakhon until reaching Ban Na Hua Bo. U-turn and turn left to Rural Highway NO. 2016. The temple share entrance with Phra That Phu Phek, but turn right and keep going for other 30 kilometres.

Wat Kham Pramong (วัดคำประมง)

Located at Ban Kham Pramong, Tambon Sawang. The buildings are constructed in modern architecture. The ubosot is decorated peculiarly and beautifully both inside and outside. This temple is an insightful meditation

dwelling of Phrakhru Santi Worayan (Luangpu Sim Phuttharo), one of the famous monk masters of Thailand and is also a Thai herbal nursing home (Arogayasala) for cancer patients with alternative medicine that integrates body, mind, and society by using herbs, meditation, and dietary therapy.

To get there: Follow Highway No. 22 (Sakon Nakhon - Phanna Nikhom) for about 37 kilometres, make a right turn to Amphoe Akat Amnuai and go for about 10 kilometres.





Amphoe Phang Khon

Nam Un Dam (เขื่อนน้ำอูน)

Located at Tambon Rae. The clay dam, managed by the Royal Irrigation Department, is built to reserve water from Nam Un, a tributary of Songkram River which is originated from Phu Phan Range. Its reservoir can well support irrigation and recreation. The reservoir is in the hug of Phu Phan Range and beautiful forest. Close to the dam is a small waterfall that is created by dam's outlet.

To get there: From Amphoe Phang Khon, take Highway No. 227 (Phang Khon - Waritchaphum) until reaching T-junction. Turn left to Rural Highway NO. 3032 and go straight on to the end of the road to Nam Un Dam. a total distance of 11 kilometres from Amphoe Phang Khon.

Amphoe Sawang Daen Din

Prasat Ban Phan Na (ปราสาทบ้านพันนา)

Located at Ban Phan Na, Tambon Phan Na, is a nursing home (Arogayasala), built in the 13th century under the reign of King Jayavarman VII. The Khmer ruins feature a single tower built with laterite standing on a rectangular base with a porch at the front. Nearby is a square pond built with laterite in layers with water all year-round. It was believed to have been built in the same period as Prasat Phrathat Phu Phet. Some parts of the sanctuary still remain in good shape.

To get there: From Amphoe Sawang Daen Din, take Highway NO. 22 towards Amphoe Mueang Sakon Nakhon for approximately 18 kilometres and turn right for approximately 700 metres. The entrance to Prasat Ban Phan Na will be on the right.

Amphoe Kusuman

Thai So Cultural Centre (ศูนย์วัฒนธรรมไทยใต้)

Located at the Kusuman District Office. The Centre houses a lot of utensils and accessories of the Kusuman town's ruler and Thai So ethnic group who migrated from the left side of the Mekong River. The utensils are involved in religious ceremonies, traditions and culture, and for making a living. It also displays a sign-board written in Thai So's language compared with Thai language to show the differences of the alphabets and pronunciation. Open from Monday - Saturday between 08.30 a.m. - 04.30 p.m. without charge. For further information, please call Tel. 0 4276 9052.

To get there: Thai So Cultural Centre located at Km. 190 on Highway No. 22

Amphoe Tao Ngoi

Phu Pha Yon National Park (อุทยานแห่งชาติภูผายล)

Situated on Phu Phan Mountain Range, the park acquires total area of 825 square kilometres. in Amphoe Khok Si Suphan, Amphoe Tao Ngoi of Sakon Nakhon, Amphoe Nakae of Nakhon Phanom, Amphoe Dong Luang and Khamcha-i of Mukdahan.

Established to honor His Majesty the King, Bhumibol Adulyadej (Rama IX) the park is set up on July 28, 1988. It features plateau and sandstone mountain, blanketed by deciduous dipterocarp forest, dry evergreen forest, hill evergreen forest. The trees found in the park include thingar, Lagerstroemia calyculata Kurz, Irvingia malayana. Wildlife found includes barking deer, sambar deer, Asiatic wild dog.





Attractions in the park include:

Huai Huat Reservoir (อ่างเก็บน้ำห้วยหวด) The reservoir is only 700 metres from the park's head quarter. It is created by the irrigation dam by the initiative of His Majesty the King. Bhumibol Adulyadej (Rama IX) There is a rock in weird shape rock, by the pavilion on the right side of the reservoir. From there, tourist can see two falls cascade into the reservoir.

Namtok Rak Sai Noi (น้ำตกกรากไทรน้อย) is a one layer waterfall 5 metres high, 500 metres from a view spot of the Huai Huat Reservoir. Visitors can walk on foot for sightseeing. Water is available only in the rainy season.

Namtok Pha Phueng (น้ำตกผาผึ้ง) is a one layer waterfall 10 metres high. The water source comes from Huai Nam Sai flowing into the Huai Huat Reservoir. Visitors can walk from the scenic point of the reservoir for a distance of one kilometre to see the waterfall.

Namtok Kham Sang (น้ำตกค่าน้ำสร้าง) With the height of 25 metres, the highest falls in the park. It can be seen from the dam embarkment. The falls is 1.8 kilometres from the park's headquarter.

Tham Phaya Tao Ngoi (ผาพญาเต่าอ้อย) The cave is 7 kilometres from the park's headquarter via Ban Huai Huat-Khok Klang Road. There is rock in "Ngoi Tortoise" shape is going towards Phung Stream. The local believes that tortoise represents fertile land and name the village Ban Tao Ngoi.

Lan Dusita (ลานดุษิตา) The vast rock plain turns colourful in late rainy season (October-February) when various flowers in tiny size are in full bloom. They include Dusita in purple, Kradum Ngoen, Soi Suwanna, En-A, Yat Nam Khang. Nature trail leads the tourist to enjoy the flower without stepping on it. Other attractions include Tham Hip Phu Pha Nang, Tham



Huai Huat Reservoir





Camping ground of Phu Pha Yon National Park

Saowapha, Dong Noi Reservoir, and Tham Phra Wet.

The three thousands years old cliff carving at Phu Pha Yon (ภาพรอยสลักผาสามพันปีที่ภูผายล) Phu Pha Yon, the mountain in the compound of meditation centre, Ban Na Phang, Tambon Kok Pla Sio, 38 kilometres from Sakon Nakhon city, houses cliff carving featuring lifestyle of Thai people in the pre-historical period. The cliff carving was created by using solid tool to mark the cliff wall in the shapes of animals, people and farm. Around the cliff is beautiful nature.

To get there: From Amphoe Tao Ngoi, take Highway No.2339 (Tao Ngoi-Si Wicha) for 5 kilometres, and turn into Ban Muang-Na Ang Road, via Ban Phon Bok, Ban Phon Paeng, to Ban Na Phang. From Ban Na Phang, take asphalted road to the cliff where stairs will lead you to the crest. Stone chairs are available at rest areas on the way.

Accommodation and camping ground are available for tourist. For more information,



Namtok Kham Sang

contact Phu Pha Yon National Park, Amphoe Tao Ngoi, Sakon Nakhon 47260 Tel. 0 4270 7214, 08 1260 4988 or the National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department Tel. 0 2562 0760-2 www.dnp.go.th

To get there: From Amphoe Mueang Sakon Nakhon, follow Highway No. 223 (Sakon Nakhon-Nakhon Phanom) for 14 kilometres and make a right and go for about 12 kilometres to arrive at Amphoe Tao Ngoi. Continue on Highway No. 2339 for 6 kilometres to reach the National Park Headquarters or take a route of Sakon Nakhon - Kalasin for 9 kilometres, then make a left to Highway No. 2339 to the National Park.





Nam Phung Dam

Amphoe Phu Phan Nam Phung Dam (เขื่อนน้ำพุง)

The first rockfill dam in Northeast Thailand is 1,720 metres long and 40 metres high. The dam generates electricity and supply to people in Sakon Nakhon and Nakhon Phanom. His Majesty the King Bhumibol Adulyadej (Rama IX) has presided over the opening ceremony on November 14, 1965. It is a nice, comfortable and tranquil peace.

To get there: From Amphoe Mueang Sakon Nakohn, take Highway No.213 (Sakon Nakhon-Kalasin Road) until Kham Phoem Pittaya School intersection. Turn left and keep going for other 3 kilometres.



Nam Phung Dam

Amphoe Waritchaphum Phra That Si Mongkhon (พระธาตุศรีมงคล)

Located at Wat Phra That Si Mongkhon, Tambon Ban That, The rectangular pagoda is





Phra That Si Mongkhon

decorated in modern design and stucco. Its base contain decoration in terra cotta featuring history of Lord Buddha. The modern design is the renovation of the old pagoda which has only laterite core. This pagoda is the sacred icon of Amphoe Waritchaphum.

To get there: From Amphoe Waritchaphum, take Highway No.227 (Phang Khon-Waritchaphum Road), and keep going for other 2.5 kilometres. Phra That Si Mongkhon located on the right hand side.





Museum of Phra Achan Wan Uttamo's Eight Requisites

Amphoe Song Dao

Wat Tham Aphai Damrong Tham or Wat Tham Phuang (วัดถ้ำอภัยดำรงธรรม หรือ วัดถ้ำพวง) and Museum of Phra Achan Wan Uttamo's Eight Requisites (พิพิธภัณฑ์อัฐบริหารพระอาจารย์วัน อุตตโม)

This is a Dhammayutika temple focusing on insight development located on the Phu Phan Range at Mu 1, Ban Tha Wat, Tambon Pathum Wapi. The area where the temple is situated was formerly called by the villagers as “Phu Pha Lek”, presumably because of the rich content of iron or “Lek” in Thai. When placing a magnet on the ground, it will attract a cluster or “Phuang” of small stones. This is how Tham Phuang derived its name.

Wat Tham Phuang houses many sacred places of worship; namely,

Wihan Phra Mongkhon Mutchalin (วิหารพระมงคลมูจลินท์) enshrines a large image of the Buddha protected by the Naga, measuring 5 metres across the lap, Phra Norasi – an Arahant in the epoch of the Kassapo Buddha, the black image of Phra Phuttharup Ong Dam from India, and relics of the Lord Buddha, a private Buddha, and an Arahant.

Museum of Phra Achan Wan Uttamo's Eight Requisites (พิพิธภัณฑ์อัฐบริหารพระอาจารย์วัน อุตตโม) is the centrepiece of the temple's area. Phra Achan Wan Uttamo (Phra Udom Sang-worawisutthi Thera) was a monk master of insight development, a student of Phra Achan Man Phurithatto, and founder of this temple. The Museum is a 2-storey brick building tiled with marble. The lower floor exhibits paintings depicting the biography from the birth of Phra



Achan Wan Uttamo. The upper floor houses his image seated in meditation surrounded by offerings and cabinets showcasing his eight requisites.

Chedi Phra Udom Sangworawisutthi Thera (เจดีย์พระอุดมสังวรวิสุทธิเถร) is a 2-storey chedi with a similar shape as the Museum. There are staircases leading up to the chedi from 4 sides with 3 entrance facades. The upper floor of the chedi houses a lifelike image of Phra Achan Wan Uttamo. This chedi was constructed on the site where his cremation ceremony took place.

The Four Holy Sites (สี่แห่งนิยสถาน ๔ ตำบล) imitate the sacred places of the Lord Buddha's birth, enlightenment, first sermon, and Nibbana in Nepal and India. The Birth Chedi is named

"Phra Chedi Siri Maha Maya", the Enlightenment Chedi "Phra Chedi Si Maha Pho", the First Sermon Chedi "Phra Chedi Thammekkhā Sathup", and the Nibbana Chedi "Phra Chedi Wihan Parinipphan".

Wihan Phra Pang Lelai (วิหารพระปางเลโดยก) enshrines the image of the Buddha accepting offerings from an elephant and a monkey.

To get there: From Amphoe Mueang Sakon Nakhon, take Highway No. 22 (Sakon Nakhon - Udon Thani) until arrive Amphoe Sawang Daen Din, turn left to Highway No. 2342 to Amphoe Song Dao. Then take Rural Highway No. 2021 and Rural Highway No. 5045 via Phu Pha Lek National Park and go straight ahead around 1.5 kilometres to the temple.



Phra Chedi Si Maha Pho





Pha Dong Ko

Phu Pha Lek National Park (อุทยานแห่งชาติภูผาเหล็ก)

The park covers are in Amphoe Song Dao, Amphoe Waritchaphum, and Amphoe Kut Bak of Sakon Nakhon, Amphoe Wang Sam Mo of Udon Thani, Amphoe Somdet and Amphoe Kham Muang of Kalasin. The park compound

also acquires part of Phu Phan Range with Phu Ang So as its highest peak. Most area is blanketed with deciduous dipterocarp forest, mixed dipterocarp forest, dry evergreen forest, various kinds of bamboo and herbs. Wild hogs, barking deer, mouse deer and various birds are found.

Attractions in the park include

Pha Suriyan (ผาสุริยันธ์) is only 500 metres from the park's headquarter. The towering cliff on the top of Phu Pha Lek offers nice view point and sun rise view.

Pha Dong Ko (ผาดงก่อ) is only 700 metres from the park's headquarter. The cliff is situated on peak of Phu Pha Lek, part of Phu Phan Range. From the cliff, tourist can enjoy breath taking view of rugged mountains of Phu Phan Range, including Phu Pha Hak, Phu Mai, Phu Sak Lak in Amphoe Wang Sam Mo of Udon Thani.



Pha Suriyan





Ho Song Dao

Ho Song Dao (หอส่องดาว) or the observatory is situated at Pha Dong Ko. By panoramic around, it is a good place to observe the star and meteor shower.

Lan Usa Sawan (ลานอุษาสวรรค์) is situated on the top of Phu Pha Lek. It comprises forest, mountain, rock and grassland, which looked like man-made garden. There is a number of wild flower around the area.



Camping ground of Phu Pha Lek National Park

Pha Phak Wan Pre-historical Painting (ภาพเขียนก่อนประวัติศาสตร์ผาผักหวาน) is 15 kilometres from the park's headquarter. The 3,600 years old painting is on a big rock at Ban Phu Ta Kham, Tambon Tha Sila. It features women standing in line and holding each other's shoulder.

Dinosaur graveyard (สุสานไดโนเสาร์) Lots of fossil are found at mid of Phu Pha Lek Mountain in Amphoe Song Dao, Sakon Nakhon and forest's edge of Phu Phan, Amphoe Kham Muang of Kalasin. Fossils of plant and petrified wood are also found.





"Palaeng" or dinner in traditional style

Accommodation and camping group are available for the tourists. For more information, contact Phu Pha Lek National Park, Ban Tha Wat, Tambon Pathumwapi, Amphoe Song Dao, Sakon Nakhon 47190, Tel. 08 8552 4538 or contact the National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department at Tel. 0 2562 0760-2 or www.dnp.go.th.

To get there: From Amphoe Song Dao, take Rural Highway No. 2021 and Rural Highway No. 5045 to Phu Pha Lek National Park. From Amphoe Mueang Sakon Nakhon, take Highway No. 22 (Sakon Nakhon - Udon Thani) until arrive Amphoe Sawang Daen Din, turn left to Highway No. 2342 to Amphoe Song Dao. Then take Rural Highway No. 2021 and Rural Highway No. 5045 to Phu Pha Lek National Park.





ACTIVITIES

Phu Thai Ethnic group at Ban Non Hom

(ชาวภูไท บ้านโนนหอม)

Located at Tambon Non Hom Amphoe Mueang Sakon Nakhon. Phu Thai Ethnic Group has immigrated from the left side of Mekong River to settle down here since over a century ago. Anyway, they can maintain their unique tradition. Tourist can enjoy Palaeng, or dinner in traditional style, and traditional performance by contacting Marketing Demonstration Centre, Ban Non Hom, 5 Mu 2 Tambon Non Hom, Amphoe Mueang Sakon Nakhon 47000.

To get there. From Amphoe Mueang Sakon Nakhon, take Highway No.223 (Sakon Nakhon-Mukdahan) for 13 kilometres and turn right to Highway No. 2358. The village is 2 kilometres away.

EVENTS AND FESTIVALS

Phrathat Choeng Chum Fair

(งานนมัสการพระธาตุเชิงชุมและหลวงพ่อพระองค์แสน)

is held during the 9th waxing moon – full moon days of the 2nd lunar month (around late December to early January of every year) at Wat Phrathat Choeng Chum Worawihan, Charoen Mueang Road, Amphoe Mueang Sakon Nakhon. Activities will include alms-giving and a merit-making ceremony, paying respect to the Luangpho Phra Ong Saen image, Phrathat Choeng Chum's bathing ceremony and candlelight procession, various forms of entertainment, and booth display of local products. For more information, contact the Sakon Nakhon Provincial Cultural Office, Tel. 0 4271 6247.

Ruam Nam Chai Thai Sakon Fair and Red Cross Fair (งานรวมน้ำใจไทยสกลและงานกาชาด)

held on January of every year at the city hall of Sakon Nakhon, Amphoe Mueang Sakon Nakhon. the fair comprises floats showing cultures and tradition of different ethnic groups in the province such as Phu Thai, So, Yo, Saek, Ka Loeng, Kula, Vietnamese and Chinese. The float parade starts from Ming Mueang Field via Sukkasem Road to the city hall. The other entertainments include folk culture contest, traditional dinner, and performances on stage.

So Ram Ruek Festival (งานเทศกาลใส่รำลึก)

The festival to commemorate So ethnic group in held annually on the 4th waxing moon of March at Amphoe Kusuman. Traditional rites conducted by a number of So people will start in late morning. Around the venue, lots of local products will be put on sale.

Bun Mahachat Festival and Bun Bangfai or Rocket Festival, Amphoe Phang Khon

(งานบุญมหาชาติและบุญบั้งไฟ อำเภอฟังโคน)

The festivals are held annually in the first week of May. Its activities include local rocket contest, Mahachat Preying, Phang Khon Cuisine Festival, and the contest of local rocket parade.

Visakha Puja Day Festival (งานเทศกาลวันวิสาขบูชา)

held on the full moon day of the 6th lunar month, features a grand lotus lantern procession, a ceremony of walking in a candlelight procession around Phrathat Choeng Chum, Khao Phan Kon parade (Rice parade), Dhamma Tour activity, ordination of white-robe lay people, and the demonstration of the way of practice from the insightful meditation school.



Phu Thai dance in Wax Castle Festival

Asalha Puja Festival and Paying Respect to the Four Holy Places of Buddhism

(เทศกาลอาสาฬหะ สัปดาห์เวียนเทียน 4 ตำบล)

held on the full moon day of the 8th lunar month at Wat Tham Phuang, Amphoe Song Dao, is the only one place in the northeastern region that replicated the four main places of the birth, enlightenment, first sermon, and death of the Lord Buddha. Join the ceremony of walking in a candlelight procession around the imitated four holy places with a lotus lantern on Asalha Puja Day.

Wax Castle Festival (งานประเพณีแห่ปราสาทผึ้ง)

takes place every year at the end of Buddhist Lent during the 12th waxing moon – full moon

days of the 11th lunar month (October) at Sanam Ming Mueang and Wat Phrathat Choeng Chum Worawihan, Amphoe Mueang Sakon Nakhon.

The “Prasat Phueng”, or wax castle, is built according to a Buddhist belief. The story has it that the God Indra created silver, gold, and jewelled staircases for the Lord Buddha upon his descending down to Earth from the Tavatimsa Heaven at the end of Buddhist Lent day. Angels, human beings, garudas, nagas, and underworld creatures, in appreciation of the Lord Buddha’s virtues and out of their faith in merit making, saw imaginatively beautiful celestial castles where they wished to live and came to realise





"Prasat Phueng" or wax castle

that they should make merit and practice Dhamma in order to stay in such fine abode. So, the wax castles have been created to represent heavenly palaces with intricate decorations, in dedication to their deceased ancestors and to make merit together at the end of Buddhist Lent.

There are 2 types of wax castles including *Traditional Wax Castle*, which features models of the Sim or Northeastern-style ordination hall or spirit house and square structure called Ho Phueng. A traditional wax castle is formed by using banana stalks to make the structure. Then, Dok Phueng or wax flowers will be prepared by putting bee's wax in a cup or a bowl floating on

hot water, using low heat until the wax melts. Peel the bottom part of unripe papaya with curves to look like flower petals, dip into hot wax and followed by water to obtain wax-dipped flowers to decorate the castle. The other type of wax castle is *Applied Wax Castle*, which features a castle with a wooden structure topped with a spired roof and decorated with moulded wax patterns.

Every year on the 13th waxing moon day before the Wax Castle Procession takes place, villagers in various Khum Wat or temple communities will take their elaborately created and decorated wax castles to Sanam Ming Mueang for a contest and for the public to appreciate closely. There is





Christmas Star Parade Celebration

also a contest of the Bai Si banana-leaf offerings, the Bai Si spirit warming ceremony and Pha Laeng dinner, folk cultural performances, and trade fair of local products. The next day, the 14th waxing moon day, the wax castles will be proceeded along the roads around the Mueang Sakon Nakhon Municipality to end at Wat Phrathat Choeng Chum Worawihan as offerings to the Lord Buddha. For more information, please contact TAT Nakhon Phanom Office, Tel. 0 4251 3490-1.

Boat racing (งานประเพณีแข่งเรือ)

Held synchronically with the wax castle procession at Phang Thong Pond or Tha Nang Ap, Ban Tha Wat, Amphoe Mueang Sakon Nakhon.

Christmas Star Parade (ประเพณีแห่ดาว เทศกาลคริสต์มาส จังหวัดสกลนคร)

takes place during 23-25 December of every year at the Ban Tha Rae community and Sanam Ming Mueang, Amphoe Mueang Sakon Nakhon. The Christmas Star Parade reflects the faithful belief in Jesus Christ of the Roman Catholic Christians. On Christmas night when Jesus was born, the sky was magically brightened up with the glory of stars. Therefore, "stars" have become a symbol of the birth of Jesus. In 1982, Tha Rae villagers created paper stars to represent stars in the sky and held them in a procession around the village to end at the St. Michael's Cathedral in the heart of the community. It has since become an annual event and the original hand-





held small stars with a bamboo structure have been replaced with an illuminated procession of large stars accompanied by Santa kids and angels, now a famous and unique event of Sakon Nakhon.

At twilight of 23 December every year, the Christmas Star Parade will proceed around the Tha Rae community before parking near the Martino Hall. The Christians in Tha Rae community also decorate their houses with light and Christmas trees as well as stars are hung on doors and windows. At twilight of the Christmas Eve, there will be a parade of small original hand-held stars by Tha Rae's Christians around the village, which will end at the St. Michael's Cathedral. And the evening of the Christmas Day will see the Christmas Star Parade and contest of a number of large star floats by

Christian communities in Sakon Nakhon and nearby provinces proceeding around Mueang Sakon Nakhon Municipality. For more information, call the Archdiocese of Tharae-Nongsaeng, Tel. 0 4271 1272, and TAT Nakhon Phanom Office, Tel. 0 4251 3490-1.

LOCAL PRODUCTS

Indigo-dyed Fabric refers to woven cloth dyed with natural pigments obtained from indigo, which yield different shades from light to dark blue. Indigo-dyed fabric is produced widely in Northeastern Thailand, especially in Sakon Nakhon where cotton yarns are dyed with indigo before being handwoven into fabric. Sometimes the yarns are tied into Ikat patterns before being dyed and woven on a folk handloom, resulting in unique, handwoven indigo-dyed Matmi fabric in each locality.



Tha Rae community in Christmas





Indigo Planting



Today, new techniques; such as, tie-dyeing, wax writing, and batik painting, have been introduced in order to obtain more contemporary patterns and colours.

Famous indigo-dyed fabric production sites in Sakon Nakhon include:

Ban Tham Tao (บ้านถ้ำเต่า), Tambon Samakkhi Phatthana, Amphoe Akat Amnuai, is a village with a long history, as a large ancient pottery kiln site was unearthed here, which gave the village its name. Ban Tham Tao is the largest indigo planting and production site in the province. There are many weaving groups, developing the know-how, and creating modern forms of products from indigo-dyed fabric. They also provide demonstrations on spinning and dyeing cotton and tie-indigo-dyeing activity. (Prior arrangement is recommended.) Products from indigo-dyed fabric are available. For more information, contact the Ban Tham Tao Farmer's Housewives Group, Khun Thanyalak Thawikittiphan, Tel. 0 4216 8067, 08 7858 8823.

Ban Phan Na (บ้านพันนา), Tambon Phan Na, Amphoe Sawang Daen Din, is a village weaving indigo-dyed cotton fabric, which is made into various products; such as, ready-to-wear clothes, bag, key chain, cushion, etc. For more information, please contact Ban Phan Na Natural Indigo-dyed Fabric Weaving Group, Tel. 0 4272 9557.

Ban Non Ruea (บ้านโนนเรือ), Tambon Na Hua Bo, Amphoe Phanna Nikhom, provides a demonstration on the traditional indigo-dyeing and weaving process. (Prior arrangement is recommended.) Visitors can shop for products from indigo-dyed fabric like scarf, shawl, ready-to-wear clothes, handbag, etc. Contact the





Ban Non Ruea Samakkhi Farmer's Housewives Group (Homekramwaree): Mae Waree Chaitamat, Tel. 08 7232 9016, 08 2850 9484.

KramSakon (ร้านครามสกอล), 212 Mu 2, Ban Phanao, Tambon Huai Yang, Amphoe Mueang Sakon Nakhon, is a shop providing a workshop on tie-dyeing a T-shirt or scarf for interested visitors (Prior arrangement is recommended.), and a corner selling various products from indigo-dyed fabric; such as, ready-to-wear clothes, bed sheet, pillowcase, key chain, and so on. For more information, call Tel. 08 0582 6655.

Ceramics and Pottery

Ban Kut Na Kham Arts and Crafts Centre

(ศูนย์ศิลปาชีพบ้านกุดนาขาม) Located in Ban Kut Na Kham, Tambon Charoen Sin, Amphoe Charoen Sin, the centre is production hub of ceramics, wood carving, silk weaving. Furthermore, the centre has demonstration for clay shaping and painting, showing the

excellent craftsmanship and skill to product unique products for all Thai product lover. The centre open between 08.00 a.m. - 04.30 p.m. everyday. For a group visit, please contact in advance, Tel. 0 4270 9162.

To get there. From Sakon Nakhon, take Highway No. 22 (Sakon Nakhon-Udon Thani) for 84 kilometres to Amphoe Sawang Daen Din. Then turn right to Rural road No. 2024, and turn right to Rural road No. 3026 until arrive Sang Fak-Kut Na Kham intersection, turn left and keep going for other 4 kilometres.

Ban Pan Mo (บ้านปันหม้อ)

The pottery village Ban Chiang Khuea is in Tambon Chiang Khuea, Amphoe Mueang Sakon Nakhon. The farmers here earn extra by pottery business. Tourist can enjoy shopping for value-for-money products in the village and along its entrance .



Ban Kut Na Kham Arts and Crafts Centre





Mak Mao Juice Products

To get there: From Amphoe Mueang Sakon Nakhon, take Highway No. 22 (Sakon Nakhon-Nakhon Phanom Road) around 16 kilometres until reaching Ban Chiang Khuea.

Khao Hang Sakon (ข้าวฮางสกน)

“Khao Hang” refers to ripening paddy in the milky stage that is too old to be pounded into Khao Mao, but still not ripe enough to be harvested, and is soaked to stimulate germination and production of GABA – Gamma Amino Butyric Acid, which helps keep the balance of the brain, make one relaxed and sleep well. The soaked paddy will be steam cooked and sun-dried before being husked into brown rice. “Khao Hang Ngok” refers to germinated paddy that is steam cooked and sun-dried before being husked into brown GABA rice, which contains

higher nutritional values than Khao Hang. Khao Hang reflects the folk wisdom of living and food preservation because the rice bran and fibres still remain in the rice grains after being husked, as they have already been steam cooked, so no broken grains. A much renowned production site of Khao Hang in Sakon Nakhon province is Ban Na Bo, Tambon Pla Lo, Amphoe Waritchaphum. Khao Hang is also available at various local product shops around Sakon Nakhon.

Mak Mao Juice Products (ผลิตภัณฑ์น้ำหมากเมา) are made from Mak Mao - Antidesma thwaitesianum, a native fruit to Northeastern Thailand growing wild on the Phu Phan Range. It is a perennial plant that has existed for more than 2,000 years and was eaten fresh or drunk as juice to relieve cold sores or fever. According to research, Mak Mao juice has a lot of properties





and nutritional values, applicable for all ages and genders. The Mak Mao juice has been processed into various products including Mak Mao berry juice and Mak Mao wine. The production sites are mostly in Amphoe Phu Phan; such as, Sakon Nakhon Winery, Mu 6 Tambon Sang Kho, Amphoe Phu Phan, Tel. 08 3407 8423 and Wannawong Fruit Wine, Ban Pho Chai Phatthana, Tambon Sang Kho, Amphoe Phu Phan, Tel. 0 4271 1533. The products are also available at various local product shops around Sakon Nakhon.

SOUVENIRS SHOPS

Kritsada Mai Thai (กฤษฎาไหมไทย) Prem Prida Road, Tambon That Choeng Chum, Tel. 0 4271 1697 (silk, garments, cotton cloth.)

Maan Craft (แมน คRAFT) 1576 Sukkasem Road, Tambon That Choeng Chum, Tel. 0 4271 4685, 08 1055 6301 (silk, garments, cotton cloth.)

Phira Mai Thai 2 (พีระไหมไทย ๒) 581/4 Charoen Mueang Road, Tambon That Choeng Chum, Tel. 08 3326 3765 (silk, garments, cotton cloth.)

Phutthasin Mai Thai (พุทธศิลป์ไหมไทย) Prem Prida Road Tel. 0 4271 1548 (silk, garments, cotton cloth.)

Sot Si Mai Thai (สดศรีไหมไทย) 953/1 (In front of Wat Phra That Choeng Chum) Charoen Mueang Road, Tambon That Choeng Chum, Tel. 0-4271 1953 (Mat Mi Silk, Praewa Silk, garments)

SUGGESTED ITINERARY

(3 days 2 nights)

Day 1 (Amphoe Mueang Sakon Nakhon – Amphoe Charoen Sin – Amphoe Sawang Daen Din – Amphoe Song Dao)

(Morning) - Pay homage to **Phrathat Choeng Chum**, Amphoe Mueang Sakon Nakhon, the provincial chedi of Sakon Nakhon.



Indigo - dyed fabric shop in Amphoe Mueang Sakon Nakhon





- Leave for Amphoe Charoen Sin.
- Visit **the SUPPORT Centre at Ban Khut Na Kham**, Amphoe Charoen Sin, to observe the ceramic production process, try your hand at ceramic painting, and shop for some souvenirs.
- Continue to Amphoe Sawang Daen Din.

- (Afternoon) - Learn and try your hand at dyeing fabric with indigo at **the Ban Phan Na Natural Indigo-dyed Fabric Weaving Group**, Amphoe Sawang Daen Din, and shop for indigo-dyed fabric products from the production site.
- Leave for Amphoe Song Dao.
 - Pay respect to the Four Holy Sites (replicas) at **Wat Tham Aphai Damrong Tham**, and relics of Phra Achan Wan Uttamo at the Museum of Phra Achan Wan Uttamo's Eight Requisites, Amphoe Song Dao.
 - Experience the twilight atmosphere at Pha Suriyan and Pha Dong Ko, **Phu Pha Lek National Park**, Amphoe Song Dao.
 - Check-in to the accommodation in Amphoe Song Dao.

Day 2 (Amphoe Song Dao – Amphoe Phang Khon – Amphoe Phanna Nikhom – Amphoe Mueang Sakon Nakhon)

- (Morning) - Wake up early to admire the sunrise at Pha Suriyan, **Phu Pha Lek National Park** (in case of staying overnight at the Park).
- Depart for Amphoe Phang Khon.
 - Enjoy the picturesque scenery of

Nam Un Dam, Amphoe Phang Khon.

- Continue on to Amphoe Phanna Nikhom.
 - Pay respect to the relics of Phra Achan Fan Acharo at **the Museum of Phra Achan Fan Acharo, Wat Pa Udom Somphon**, Amphoe Phanna Nikhom.
- (Afternoon) - Leave Amphoe Phanna Nikhom for Amphoe Mueang Sakon Nakhon.
- Visit the ancient Khmer sanctuary, **Prasat Phrathat Narai Cheng Weng**, Amphoe Mueang Sakon Nakhon.
 - Admire and take photographs with the French-style architecture at **Ban Tha Rae**, the largest Roman Catholic community in Thailand.
 - Learn about the history, way of life and culture of Sakon Nakhon people at **Phu Phan Museum**, Amphoe Mueang Sakon Nakhon.
 - Check-in to the accommodation in Amphoe Mueang Sakon Nakhon.

Day 3 (Amphoe Mueang Sakon Nakhon – Amphoe Tao Ngoi – Amphoe Mueang Sakon Nakhon)

- (Morning) - Admire the rising sun at **the Nong Han Viewpoint**, Tha Rae community, Amphoe Mueang Sakon Nakhon. There are a number of pavilions by the lake for relaxation and a concrete bridge running from the shore to an island in the middle of the lake, which is ideal for strolling and taking photos.
- Pay respect to the relics of Phra





Achan Man Phurithatta Thera at
**the Museum of Phra Achan Man
Phurithatta Thera's Requisites,
Wat Pa Sutthawat**, Amphoe
Mueang Sakon Nakhon.

- Pay respect to Buddha images and huge sandstone sculptures of Luangpu Thuat, a reclining Buddha, and replica of the Four Buddhas' Footprints, and make merit at Wat Tham Pha Daen, Amphoe Mueang Sakon Nakhon.

(Afternoon) - Enjoy the pleasantly shady atmosphere of **the Phu Phan Ratchaniwet Palace** on the Phu Phan Range, Amphoe Mueang Sakon Nakhon. The Palace is situated amidst the verdant forest and beautifully landscaped with decorative flowering plants.

It is open to the public (in polite dress and well composed) when members of the royal family do not stay there.

- Visit **the Phu Phan Royal Development Study Centre**, Amphoe Mueang Sakon Nakhon, where the "three blacks of Phu Phan" including Tajima cow, Phu Phan pig, and Phu Phan chicken are bred in a farm. There is also a shop selling herbal products and processed agricultural products from the Centre.
- Return to the accommodation in Amphoe Mueang Sakon Nakhon or continue on to a nearby province on a tourism linkage route.



Sunset at Nong Han







แผนที่ตัวเมืองสกลนคร

SAKON NAKHON CITY MAP



วัด Temple (Wat)

- 1 วัดป่าภูธรพิทักษ์ Wat Pa Phuthonpithak
- 2 วัดศรีสะเกษ Wat Si Saket
- 3 วัดโพธิ์ชัย Wat Phochai
- 4 วัดสะพานคำ Wat Saphankham
- 5 วัดศรีโพนเมือง Wat Si Phon Mueang
- 6 วัดเหนือ Wat Neua
- 7 วัดศรีชุมพู Wat Si Chomphu
- 8 วัดแจ้งแสงอรุณ Wat Chaeng Saeng Arun
- 9 วัดศรีมั่งคั่ง Wat Si Sumung
- 10 วัดป่าสุทธาวาส Wat Pa Sulthawat



ตลาด Market

- 1 ตลาดป่าภูพิทักษ์ Panchasap Market
- 2 ตลาดสดศรีคุณเมือง Si Khun Mueang Market
- 3 ตลาดโคจรต.เจริญศรี Charoen Si Night Market
- 4 ตลาดเทศบาล Municipal Market



สถานที่ท่องเที่ยว Tourist Attraction

- 1 ปราสาทพระธาตุนารายณ์เจงเวง Phra That Narai Cheng Weng Stupa
- 2 สวนสมเด็จพระศรีนครินทร์ Somdet Phra Sinagarindra Park
- 3 พระธาตุเชิงชุม Phra That Choeng Chum
- 4 สถานแสดงพันธุ์ปลาน้ำจืดภาคอีสาน Isan Freshwater Aquarium
- 5 พิพิธภัณฑ์โบราณพระอารามม่อน ภูริทัตตะ Luang Pu Louis Chanthasaro Museum



โรงพยาบาล Hospital

- 1 โรงพยาบาลค่ายเกษมสันต์ Kirit Siwara Army Camp Hospital
- 2 โรงพยาบาลรักษาสกล Rak Sakon Hospital
- 3 โรงพยาบาลสกลนคร Sakon Nakhon Hospital



สถานที่สำคัญ Place of Interest

- 1 วิทยาลัยเทคนิคสกลนคร Sakon Nakhon Technical College
- 2 มหาวิทยาลัยราชภัฏสกลนคร Sakon Nakhon Rajabhat University
- 3 เรือนจำจังหวัดสกลนคร Sakon Nakhon Prison
- 4 สำนักงานเทศบาลเมืองสกลนคร Mueang Sakon Nakhon Municipality Office
- 5 ที่ว่าการอำเภอเมืองสกลนคร Amphoe Mueang Sakon Nakhon Office
- 6 ศาลจังหวัดสกลนคร Sakon Nakhon Law Court
- 7 สวนรวมใจไทสกล Ruamjai Thai Sakon Courtyard

สัญลักษณ์ Legend



ศาลากลางจังหวัด

City Hall



สถานีขนส่ง

Bus Terminal



ไปรษณีย์

Post Office



สถานีตำรวจ

Police Station



สนามบิน

Airport



ถนน

Road



โรงเรียน

School



แหล่งน้ำ, แม่น้ำ

Stream, River





แผนที่ท่องเที่ยวจังหวัดสกลนคร SAKON NAKHON TOURIST MAP



9 4.5 0

9 กิโลเมตร



Kilometers





- 1 ปราสาทบ้านพันนา Prasat Ban Phanna
- 2 วัดถ้ำอภัยดำรงธรรม หรือวัดถ้ำพวง และพิพิธภัณฑ์อาจารย์วัน อุตตโม
Wat Tham Apai Damrong Tham or Wat Tham Phuang and the
Museum of Archan Wan Uttamo
- 3 อุทยานแห่งชาติภูผาเหล็ก Phu Pha Lek National Park
- 4 พระธาตุศรีมงคล Phra That Si Mongkhon
- 5 เขื่อนน้ำอูน Nam Oun Dam
- 6 วัดคำประมง Wat Kham Pramong
- 7 พิพิธภัณฑ์อาจารย์ฝั้น อาจาโร Archan Fan Archaro Museum
- 8 พระธาตุภูเพ็ก Phra That Phu Pek
- 9 วัดถ้ำขาม หรือ ภูขาม Wat Tham Kham or Phu Kham
- 10 ศูนย์วัฒนธรรมไทยโส้ Thai So Cultural Centre
- 11 ชุมชนบ้านท่าแร่ Tha Rae Village (Catholic Community)
- 12 จุดชมวิวนองหาร Nong Han View Point
- 13 อุทยานบัวเฉลิมพระเกียรติ Lotus Park
- 14 ปราสาทพระธาตุนารายณ์เจงเวง Phra That Narai Cheng Weng Stupa
- 15 พระธาตุเชิงชุม Phra That Choeng Chum
- 16 ชาวผู้ไทย บ้านโนนหอม Phu Thai Ethnic group at Ban Non Hom
- 17 อุทยานแห่งชาติภูผายล Phu Pha Yon National Park
- 18 วัดถ้ำผาแด่น Wat Tham Pha Daen
- 19 ศูนย์ศึกษาการพัฒนาภูพาน อันเนื่องมาจากพระราชดำริ
Phu Phan Royal Development Study Centre.
- 20 พระตำหนักภูพานราชนิเวศน์ Phu Phan Ratchaniwet Palace
- 21 อุทยานแห่งชาติภูพาน Phu Phan National Park
- 22 เขื่อนน้ำพุง Nam Phung Dam

สัญลักษณ์ Legend

	อำเภอ	Amphoe (District)		ทางหลวง	Highway
	สถานที่ท่องเที่ยว	Tourist Attraction		เส้นขอบเขตจังหวัด	Province Boundary
	สนามบิน	Airport		เส้นขอบเขตอำเภอ	District Boundary
	แหล่งน้ำ, แม่น้ำ	Stream, River			





USEFUL CALLS

Public Relation Provincial Office
Sakon Nakhon Provincial Hall
Public Relation Provincial Office
Sakon Nakhon Provincial Police Station
Mueang Sakon Nakhon Police Station
Sakon Nakhon Hospital
Raksakol Hospital
Tourist Police
Highway Police

Tel. 0 4222 3708
Tel. 0 4271 1763
Tel. 0 4271 1789
Tel. 0 4271 1665
Tel. 0 4271 1506, 0 4271 6409
Tel. 0 4271 1189, 0 4271 1615
Tel. 0 4271 2800
Tel. 1155
Tel. 1193





TOURIST INFORMATION CENTERS

TOURISM AUTHORITY OF THAILAND

1600 Petchaburi Road, Makkasan

Ratchathewi, Bangkok 10400

Tel. 1672

Fax 0 2253 7440

www.tourismthailand.org

E-mail: info@tat.or.th

Open daily 8.30 a.m. - 4.30 p.m.

MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND SPORTS

Tourist Information Center, 1st floor

4 Ratchadamnoen Nok Road, Bangkok 10100

Tel. 0 2283 1556

Open daily 8.30 a.m. - 4.30 p.m.

SUVARNABHUMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Passenger Terminal, 2nd floor, Exit 3

Tel. 0 2134 0040

Open daily 24 hours.

TOURISM AUTHORITY OF THAILAND, NAKHON PHANOM OFFICE

184/1 Sunthornvichit Road, Tambon Nai Mueang, Amphoe Mueang,

Nakhon Phanom 48000

Tel. 0 4251 3490-1

Fax: 0 4251 3492

E-mail: tatphnom@tat.or.th

Update
February 2018





Phra That Choeng Chum



Information by: TAT Nakon Phanom

Tourist Information Division (Tel. 0 2250 5500 ext. 2140-6)

Design & Printed by: Marketing Services Department
Marketing Services Department.

The contents of this publication are subject to change without notice.

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February 2018

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